enunciation of National Mineral Policy, 2008. The policy seeks to encourage employment and tertiary sector spin offs from value addition as well as from mining so as to maximise the contribution of the mineral sector to the country's gross domestic product. The Government has approved new National Mineral Policy, 2008 on 13.3.2008. The new National Mineral Policy has been tabled in the Parliament and is available on website of Ministry of Mines *(http://mines.nic.in)*.

Mines in Maharashtra

2244. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mines of various minerals identified in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether there are more potential mineral reserves in Maharashtra which are yet to be mined and exploited;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken thereon;

(d) whether some agitations have been made by the farmers/communities against the land acquisition for mines in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per available information, the details of reporting mines in Maharastra state is given below:—

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of Reporting Mines	150	150	149

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of mineral reserves in Maharashtra are given in the Mineral Year Book, published by Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library. To assess the mineral resources, various exploration agencies such as Geological Survey of India, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Maharastra, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Manganese Ore India Limited *etc.* are engaged in exploration of base metal, coal, iron ore, Pyrophyllite/sillimanite, manganese ore *etc*.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Mining activities in Niyamgiris

2245. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to grant permission to a multinational company to dig up the Niyamgiris (Orissa) which is rich in Bauxite and is used in manufacture of aluminium;